

# PRIDE Progress

Newsletter of Eastern Kentucky PRIDE

2007, Issue 2

## CALENDAR

- April 5-19 PRIDE Spring Cleanup
- April 30 Envi Award nominations due
- May 9 Education Grant budget amendment requests due
- May 31 Education Grants expire
- June 30 Education Grant final reimbursement requests and final reports due

## VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

July

Butch Allen Irwin, Clinton County

August

Culley Abner, Perry County

September

Lakis Mavinidis, Harlan County

October

Angela Burton and Teresa McCoart, Johnson County

November

Cub Scout Pack 530, Corbin

December

Girl Scout Troop 688, Owsley County

## EDUCATION PROJECTS OF THE MONTH

September

4-H Environmental Camp, Laurel County Extension Service

October

Eco Adventure Environmental Camp, Russell County

November

Environmental Fair, Hayes Lewis Elementary School "SciPri Club," Leslie County

December

Recycling Mentors, Russell County High School PRIDE Club

Learn more at  
[www.kypride.org](http://www.kypride.org)



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## PRIDE Celebrates 10 Years, Begins New Chapter

*10th Anniversary Awards and 2007 Envi Awards Presented*



Southern and eastern Kentuckians celebrated the 10th anniversary of PRIDE, as well as another successful year of their cleanup and education campaign, at the Hal Rogers Center in Hazard on Aug. 28. The crowd applauded the cleanup results since 1997 and pledged to build on the momentum. They were buoyed by new funding announced by Congressman Hal Rogers (KY-5).

Rogers congratulated and thanked the audience, as well as the hundreds of thousands of volunteers at home. "We have accomplished more than any of us ever imagined," he said. "Our hillsides are cleaner. Our rivers are healthier. Our students are better stewards. Our citizens are more likely to do the right thing with trash and wastewater. Our communities are more attractive to tourists, businesses and retirees."

"It is my hope that you will re-commit yourselves to this campaign, with a new passion and vision for the role you will play in the next chapter of the PRIDE story," Rogers continued. The audience raised their hands to show they accepted his challenge.

### New PRIDE Funding

Rogers announced new federal funds for PRIDE. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will receive \$1.96 million for the PRIDE Section 531 program to assist communities with sewer projects. Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, the nonprofit organization that coordinates the PRIDE campaign, will receive \$1.7 million from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to support local cleanup and education efforts.

Also announced was a \$1 million grant to Eastern Kentucky PRIDE from the Kentucky Department of Transportation for roadside cleanup and beautification programs throughout the 38-county region. The programs will include judge-executives, mayors and other community leaders while also creating a stewardship opportunity for children.



Lakis Mavinidis (center) accepted the Decade of Difference Diamond Award from Congressman and Mrs. Hal Rogers.

### 10th Anniversary Honors

Outstanding contributors to PRIDE since 1997 were honored.

Lakis Mavinidis, Harlan County Solid Waste Coordinator, earned the Decade of Difference Diamond Award for embodying the spirit of PRIDE. He was a driving force in the county that made the most dramatic turn around in appearance and public awareness since PRIDE began.

Unsung Hero Awards marked dedication to fulfilling the PRIDE mission. The Friends of Lake Cumberland, Friends of Laurel Lake and Friends of Fishtrap Lake

*Continued on Next Page*

# President's Column

By Karen Engle, PRIDE President and Chief Executive Officer

It is great to be back with PRIDE! If you know me, then you also know how much I love this program and desire its success.

If you don't know me, please allow me to introduce myself. I was on Congressman Hal Rogers' staff when he founded PRIDE in 1997. I served as PRIDE Executive Director from 2000 to 2003, when the Congressman asked me to start his anti-drug initiative, Operation UNITE ([www.operationunite.org](http://www.operationunite.org)). As of June 2007, I am President/Chief Executive Officer of UNITE and PRIDE.

It's challenging to oversee both organizations, but I am supported by two excellent teams and many dedicated community members, such as you. It is rewarding to work with people who are willing to roll up their sleeves and make a difference in their community.

Although PRIDE has witnessed changes recently, I want to assure you the heart of the program is the same. PRIDE is here to support you in caring for our environment, especially through education, both in the schools and communities.

## Your Field Representative

Assisting you on a day-to-day basis will be Mark Davis, who now is the PRIDE Field Representative for both community and education programs in all 38 counties. Please think of him as your eyes and ears for PRIDE.

You can reach Mark at (606) 524-0430, which is his cell phone, or at [bdavis@centertech.com](mailto:bdavis@centertech.com).

On behalf of all PRIDE staff, we look forward to working with you in 2008.



Mark Davis, PRIDE Field Representative

# Roadside PRIDE Results Announced

Tourists saw less litter this fall as they enjoyed colorful foliage in southern and eastern Kentucky, thanks to nearly 2,000 volunteers who joined the two-week Roadside PRIDE anti-litter campaign.

From Oct. 15 through Oct. 31, 1,966 Roadside PRIDE volunteers spent 8,635 hours picking up litter along 1,190 miles of roads across the region. They filled 11,214 trash bags and gathered 291 junk appliances and 1,686 old tires.

The Roadside PRIDE program featured a friendly competition among the region's communities. Local governments earned points for recruiting volunteers, cleaning road miles and collecting trash during the two weeks. Counties and cities competed in population-based classes, with Class 1 being for the smallest populations and Class 4 for the largest.

Trophies were presented to the 16 winners during an awards luncheon after the PRIDE Board of Directors meeting on Dec. 12 at The Center for Rural Development in Somerset. The Roadside PRIDE Award winners are listed below.

This was the fifth annual Roadside PRIDE program. Eastern Kentucky PRIDE provided cleanup supplies to volunteers and reimbursed local governments for their trash disposal expenses.

2007 Roadside PRIDE Awards				
CLASS	COUNTIES		CITIES	
	1ST PLACE	2ND PLACE	1ST PLACE	2ND PLACE
1	Owsley	Menifee	Livingston	Salt Lick
2	Leslie	Rockcastle	Benham	Lynch
3	Perry	Johnson	Mt. Vernon	Cumberland
4	Pulaski	Pike	Columbia	Paintsville

## PRIDE Celebrates 10th Anniversary (Continued from Cover)

won the awards for mobilizing thousands of volunteers to care for some of the region's important natural and recreation areas.

An appreciation award was presented to Richard Thomas, a founding member of the PRIDE Executive Committee and former Executive Director.

Prestonsburg Elementary School was recognized as the only school to receive PRIDE Environmental Education Grants since the program began.

The following people were recognized for volunteering 10 years of service as a PRIDE Coordinator or PRIDE Executive Committee member:

- Neeley Back, Lee County PRIDE Co-Coordinator.
- Ronnie Callahan, Owsley County PRIDE Coordinator.
- Jean Dorton, Executive Committee.
- Sandy Gay, Lee County PRIDE Co-Coordinator.
- Bob Mitchell, Executive Committee.
- Maurice Moore, Executive Committee.
- Angela Muncy, Hyden/Leslie County PRIDE Coordinator.
- Andrew Parmley, Wayne County PRIDE Coordinator.
- Ina Robbins, Pineville PRIDE Coordinator.

- Linda Rose, Morgan County PRIDE Coordinator.
- A.L. Sinclair, Adair County PRIDE Coordinator and Executive Committee.

### 2007 PRIDE Envi Awards

For excellence in the past year, the annual PRIDE Envi Awards were presented to:

- Campuses of the Year: Southside Elementary (Lee County), Corbin Middle and Somerset High.
- College/Community Project of the Year: Somerset Community College.
- Tony Turner Volunteer of

the Year: Ken Kinder, Pike County.

- Rogers-Bickford Environmental Leader: Jeffrey Thomas, Casey County, and Rodney Potter, Pike County (both posthumously).
- Kentucky PRIDE Award: Henry Hinkle, Hinkle Contracting Corporation.

### Photos and Videos Online

To view photos taken at the Aug. 28th celebration, visit [www.kypride.org/photos](http://www.kypride.org/photos) and select "Special Events." Envi Award video clips are at [www.kypride.org/envi](http://www.kypride.org/envi).

## 2007-08 PRIDE Environmental Education Grants Awarded

In November, PRIDE awarded 49 Environmental Education Grants totaling \$207,413 for hands-on learning projects that will benefit 20,172 students across southern and eastern Kentucky during the current school year. Grant recipients that start service-oriented PRIDE Clubs will receive a \$500 bonus, bringing PRIDE's potential investment in environmental education this year to more than \$230,000.

The grants will be used to teach good stewardship in a variety of ways. For example, the McCreary County Extension Service will use its grant to host a three-day, two-night environmental camp at J.M. Feltner 4-H Camp in London. At the camp, 100 7th-graders from McCreary County Middle School will get their "feet wet and hands dirty" as they are "immersed in environmental education," according to the grant application.

"I want to congratulate our grant recipients, as well as thank them for going the extra mile for their students," said Jennifer Johnson, PRIDE Education Director. "These students and educators put much time, hard work and creativity into these grant projects. The educators know it's important to offer fun, hands-on environmental lessons that will last a life time."

Karen Engle, PRIDE President and Chief Executive Officer, added,



Kim Cornett received a training certificate from PRIDE's Karen Engle and Tammie Wilson. Cornett represented Leslie County High School at the mandatory training workshop for grant recipients Nov. 13 at The Center for Rural Development in Somerset. The high school shared a \$5,000 grant with Leslie County Middle School to build animal habitat on their campus and buy educational materials.

"With this year's grant awards, the number of students influenced by PRIDE grants will exceed 500,000. That is an impressive milestone to surpass just as PRIDE is celebrating its 10th anniversary. It's exciting to imagine how these students will change our environment for the better since they have grown up learning why and how to care for nature."

Since 1998, PRIDE has awarded 837 Environmental Education Grants totaling \$3,561,305. The grants have benefited 506,564 students over the past 10 years, based on the estimates reported by grant applicants. The grants have been used to start 35 school-wide recycling projects and build 351 outdoor classrooms, 105 greenhouses and 45 wetlands.

The PRIDE Environmental Education Grant program awards up to \$5,000 annually to schools and nonprofit organizations. The grants support projects that help young people understand the importance of a clean environment, personal responsibility and community pride. Grant recipients must match the grants with monetary or in-kind contributions worth 25 percent of the grant amount.

To view a list of grant recipients, visit [www.kypride.org](http://www.kypride.org) and click on "PRIDE's Headline News."

## 2008 PRIDE Executive Committee Officers Sworn In

The 2008 officers of the PRIDE Executive Committee were sworn in at the annual meeting of the PRIDE Board of Directors on Dec. 12 at The Center for Rural Development in Somerset. They are:

- Chairwoman Jane Eller (Kentucky Environmental Education Council).
- Vice Chairwoman Sandy Gay (Lee and Owsley County Conservation Districts).
- Treasurer Maurice Moore (Pulaski County).
- Secretary Jean Dorton (Big Sandy Community and Technical College).
- President/Chief Executive Officer Karen Engle.
- Vice President/Chief Operating Officer Tammie Wilson.

The remaining members of the executive committee are: Neil Middleton (WYMT-TV); Bob Mitchell (Office of Congressman Hal Rogers); Commissioner Colleen Chaney (Governor's Office for Local Development); A.L. Sinclair (Adair County Solid Waste Coordinator); and Mark York (Kentucky Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet).

The executive committee meets monthly to establish guidelines for PRIDE programs, review applications for PRIDE grant programs and approve the organization's budget.

Nine committee members are volunteers who serve one-year terms and bring particular expertise to fulfilling the PRIDE mission. Two PRIDE staff members — the President/CEO and Vice President/COO — also serve on the committee.



Sandy Gay, Jane Eller, Maurice Moore, Karen Engle, Tammie Wilson and District Court Judge Katie Wood, who administered the oath of office.

# Is Your County in the PRIDE Environmental Education Outreach Program?

To start your students' new year right, make sure your county is participating in the PRIDE Environmental Education Outreach Program. Your entire community will benefit when a PRIDE Education Coordinator visits local schools to lead fun activities that prepare students for state science tests and life-long environmental stewardship.

The program is available across PRIDE's 38-county service area, but steps must be taken to join. There is a program fee for each county, which can be split among organizations. Local schools must commit to implementing the program in cooperation with PRIDE staff.

Seven counties have joined for the 2007-08 school year. They are listed below, along with the entities that partnered to pay the program fee:

- Bell County: Bell County Fiscal Court, Bell County 109 Board, Bell County Schools and Middlesboro Independent Schools.
- Breathitt County: Breathitt County Fiscal Court.
- Jackson County: Jackson County Fiscal Court.
- Lee County: Lee County Fiscal Court, City of Beattyville,



PRIDE Education Coordinator Sara Gilbert often leads hands-on lessons in monitoring water quality, an activity available through the PRIDE Environmental Education Outreach Program. In this photo, she was working with students from Eversole Elementary School (Perry County).

Lee County Conservation District and Lee County Schools.

- Menifee County: Menifee County Fiscal Court.
- Owsley County: Owsley County Fiscal Court and Owsley County Conservation District.
- Pulaski County: Pulaski County Fiscal Court.

The outreach program reflects PRIDE's commitment to showing students why and how they should take personal responsibility for the local environment. The goal is to increase children's environmental knowledge by providing lessons tied to Kentucky Core Content and involving students in cleanup activities.

The program serves 3rd through 5th grade classes, with an emphasis on 4th graders who are tested on science in the state's annual CATS testing. A PRIDE Education Coordinator visits classrooms monthly to teach about a different environmental topic, such as recycling, energy, water quality, wetlands, solid waste issues and litter, and wildlife, plant and animal habitat.

For more information, call the PRIDE office, toll free, at (888) 577-4339 or visit [www.educators.kypride.org/outreach.php](http://www.educators.kypride.org/outreach.php).

Eastern Kentucky PRIDE • The Center for Rural Development • 2292 S. Hwy. 27 • Somerset, KY 42501

Please notify PRIDE of address corrections at (888) 577-4339 (toll free) or [PRIDE@centertech.com](mailto:PRIDE@centertech.com).



Eastern Kentucky PRIDE is a nonprofit organization that promotes Personal Responsibility In a Desirable Environment in 38 counties of southern and eastern Kentucky by encouraging and assisting individuals, local governments, schools and others to:

1. Improve water quality.
2. Clean up illegal dumps and other solid waste problems.
3. Promote environmental education and awareness.

PRIDE is funded by a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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